

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Committee Meeting
Monday 20th January 2025, by Zoom

1. Present: Steve Ambler, Paul Bailey, Arthur Trew, Brian Smith, Alan Fleming, Barbara Richardson, Brian Barron, Alastair Bruce, Margaret Bruce.

Apologies: Ian Vandeppear

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising: Four compost bins had been ordered, one is already near Dianne's Garden, another will be in the Wildflower Meadow. MB has reminded Ross Woodside (ELGT) about our concerns about cherry tree health: his query to the Council staff had not been answered, so he will remind them but also plans to have a look himself.

3. AGM Preparation: The auditor has approved and signed the annual accounts. She advised that next year the treasurer should provide a statement from the bank manager on the status of the account on October 31st.

4. Treasurer's Report: Expenses in November were the annual insurance and the compost bins.

Membership report: Six new members had joined recently.

5. Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report: BS is considering sessions approximately every other month for a variety of volunteer activities. He has had individual approaches re Duke of Edinburgh volunteer opportunities, but feels if these involve a weekly commitment for him and a few others, this is too onerous. Kaimes School are continuing weekly sessions, and may do weaving of the willow dome, possibly pruning too. The Dirty Weekenders had worked the previous day digging out areas of turf for more wildflower planting. The Committee have paid £120 for their expenses. BS suggests we inform members and park users about the rationale for this work and the spiling along the burn [*Notices now on Notice Boards*] PB understands more spiling will be done nearer to the North entrance.

6. Tree Warden's Report: AF is to order another scythe as more volunteers will be using them. Seed will be sown – he plans for different varieties – in the wildflower areas; the Parks Officer will provide some seeds and plugs. The apple trees need pruning – Penny Barron is happy to take this on again. AF has seen two very dilapidated tents amongst the shrubberies. AB & MB are aware of rough sleeping in the area, felt the Council might look into this as someone may still be using them. [*Park Rangers agree to remove them*]

7. Committee Changes: PB expressed appreciation of Claire Jellema's work on Tea in the Park over several years, and Robin Harper's work with the burn and the D of E volunteers. Both are happy to step down from the committee if replacements are found. Richard Bush, former committee member, has offered to come back. That leaves one place to fill, possibly by a new Tea in the Park organiser. PB will contact the membership to try to find someone for this role.

8. Valley Voice: Lucy Frankel has worked on it, and it will be circulated along with the annual membership letters 3 weeks before the AGM.

9. Spending Reserves: AB has checked the level of the balance over the years since

2015, and advised that the present end of year balance of £11389, when adjusted for inflation, would be represented as £8480, not out of line with the typical balance. No projects requiring major expenditure were identified, but PB noted that when the Council work on the pavilion area (levelling and draining the ground) is done, there may be scope for major spending for FOBVP in creating some amenity.

10. AOCB: None

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 24th March

AGM date is set for Sunday 23rd February at 2.00, tea and coffee available from 1.45.